

INSTRUCTIONS

HS/HC- 912

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| AREA OR COUNTRY(S) | ORIGIN | FUNCTIONS & TOPICS | PERSONALITIES | DOCUMENT |
|---|--------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Dominican Republic | OAS | | Trujillo | DATE: |
| | | | Herter, Christian | |
| | | | Clark, Gen. Edwin | 26 Apr 60 |
| | | | Goodpaster, Gen. | |
| | | | A.J. | CLASS.: TS |
| IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT (author, form, addressee, title & length) | | | | NO.: |
| Memo of Conversation with the President, 25 Apr 60 | | | | 208102 |
| From A. J. Goodpaster, Brig. Gen., USA | | | | LOCATION: |
| Att: Memo for President, 14 Apr 60, sub: Possible Action to Prevent Castroist | | | | |
| Takeover of Dominican Republic. From Christian A. Herter. Enclosure: | | | | HS/HC-912 ✓ |
| ABSTRACT Proposed Plan. | | | | |

Memo deals with policy toward Dominican Republic during Eisenhower Administration and the plans for removal of Trujillo from there.

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April 26, 1960

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT
April 25, 1960

Others present: Secretary Herter, General Edwin Clark, General Goodpaster

General Clark handed to the President a memorandum he had prepared, together with a letter of transmittal, setting forth suggestions and ideas he had developed on how to deal with the situation in the Dominican Republic, specifically how to obtain the departure of Trujillo. The President read through these.

The President said that the big question in this is the OAS. He knew of no alliance in which indecisiveness is so great, or in which it seems so hard to generate an initiative. Mr. Herter commented that the OAS is likely to support an effort to remove Trujillo, and most of the American States will join on such a proposition.

The President said that if the OAS were to agree to this, he thought the steps by and large looked satisfactory. While efforts are being made to get the OAS to take action -- whether with or without Trujillo's agreement -- he thought the only thing that could be done would be to get our plans ready and work for a two-thirds vote of the OAS, in order to get that organization to move. Mr. Herter commented that there must be some step by Trujillo to get this matter before the OAS.

The President thought that the proposal for forming a trust into which Trujillo's funds would be placed might obtain agreement all around. General Clark commented that if "we" were to go down now to see Trujillo, the latter might accept the proposal. The President said he did not believe that anyone should function in this regard as personal representative of the President. The action should be taken by the State Department.

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He added that if the Secretary of State thought this proposal was useful, he would be prepared to support it.

Mr. Herter expressed concern as to how much of this plan would be put in writing. General Clark said that only the provisions relating to the trust would be written. Everything else would be oral. He thought Trujillo's attitude, evidenced during his meeting with him two weeks or so ago, would be favorable, and that he would be willing to withdraw. Mr. Herter said that he is anxious to avoid anything in the nature of a pre-commitment of our military forces in relation to contingencies that might occur. The President said that is a matter up to the OAS. We must not seek to dominate the affair, but must move very carefully, inducing the OAS to take the lead.

Secretary Herter said that the junta is the key to the situation. A junta should be formed, and we should be ready to back it very quickly. Individuals proposed for the junta should be checked by the CIA, to make sure they are satisfactory to us. The principal job of the junta would be to call for and conduct early elections. General Clark thought that the junta, on taking power, might ask the United States and the OAS to safeguard the elections.

Mr. Herter said we would not want to give asylum in the United States to Trujillo. He mentioned Portugal as a possibility. The President picked up this point and asked where Trujillo would go immediately upon leaving the Dominican Republic. General Clark said that a temporary haven can be arranged using a chartered plane if necessary. The President commented that he could take off for Portugal or Morocco as well as other places.

Secretary Herter commented that timing seems of vital importance in this matter. The President agreed, and stated that everything should be done carefully, smoothly, and secretly. He thought Trujillo's Ambassador should make an announcement, in the OAS, of Trujillo's departure. We could then announce our support for the junta.

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After further discussion the President said he felt ready to try this operation. General Clark acknowledged that the matter is one primarily for the State Department, and said he would take his directions from them. The President confirmed this.

A. J. Goodpaster
Brigadier General, USA